

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed November 23, 2004, please amend the claims as set forth above. This application is a divisional application of US 6,746,182. In the parent application, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement, and applicants elected the species of Figure 1. All claims were canceled except claims 1,2 and 14-18.

In this application, applicants elect the species of Figure 2. All of the above claims read on Figure 2 and Figure 7, except claims dependent claims 36 and 41. Those claims read on Figure 7 only. Applicants submit that the independent claims are allowable, thus requests the Examiner to allow claims 36 and 41 also.

As this application is a divisional application of US 6,746,182 (Munk), it should not be rejected on its parent. This application has a priority date to July 27, 2001. US 6,422,791 (Pallini) was filed April 4, 2000 and issued July 23, 2002, thus this application was co-pending with Pallini. Further, the assignee of this application and the assignee of the Munk and Pallini patents is the same. Applicant is enclosing copies of the recorded assignments.

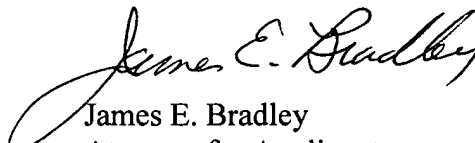
Applicants submit that the amended claims distinguish over Pallini, thus request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102 over Pallini. Claim 22 requires that the first end of the outer tubular member be rigidly connected to an annular flange adapter. In Pallini, the spring-like members allow flexing between the ends of the outer member and the inner member. Claim 22 requires that the second end of the outer tubular member be open and free of attachment to the inner tubular member. In Pallini, the spring-like members 18 are located at both ends.

Claim 37 requires that a first end of the outer tubular member be rigidly connected to the inner tubular member, the outer tubular member being free of attachment to the inner tubular member other than at the first end. Claim 42 requires rigidly connecting one end only of an outer tubular member around an elongated cylindrical inner tubular member. These requirements are not met by Pallini.

Applicants have determined that not all of the inventors listed made inventive contributions to the invention as claimed herein, and will supplement this amendment with a petition to change the inventors.

If any fees are due, please charge them to Vetco Gray Deposit Account 22-0279.

Respectfully submitted,


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